

Native Plant News

NEWSLETTER OF THE NC NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Native Plant News
Julie Higgie, editor

Winter 2018-19
ISSN: 2151-2159
Vol. 16, Issue 4

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MISSION STATEMENT:

Our mission is to promote the enjoyment and conservation of North Carolina's native plants and their habitats through education, cultivation and advocacy.

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Fall Outing

Hikers Enjoy a Wide Variety of Natives

By Bettina Darveaux

Thank goodness the day of our trip to Rockcliff Farm and Penny's Bend State Natural Area in Durham was overcast, unlike the sunny, hot, and incredibly humid conditions of the previous day and the entire summer for that matter! The mosquitos were surely out in force with our recent rains. But so were our NCNPS members who were equipped with insect repellants and willing to share with those who did not bring any, such as myself.

Our leaders talked about the history of the site and of the underlying diabase rock that produces the high pH soils, rich in magnesium, creating the unique plant communities found at Penny's Bend. We learned of the management practices and more recently of their use of fire to reduce the woody species in order to maintain open grasslands, for higher plant diversity. Conducting the controlled burns in the spring, just as the woody species start leafing out, is most effective and several protected plant species have since appeared at Penny's Bend since burn management has been implemented.

The fields were alive with goldenrods (*Solidago* spp.), Frost Aster (*Symphotrichum pilosum*) and Sweet Everlasting (*Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium*), while species such as Winged Sumac (*Rhus copallinum*) were coming into their beautiful fall color and shouting, "I am here". Focusing a little lower in the grassland were the purple-pink flowers of Slenderleaf False (continued on page 4)



Blue Waxweed

-B. Darveaux

President's Report

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John Clarke

Our Society has accomplished much to be proud of in recent months! One highlight, for example, was our NC State Fair Demonstration Garden which looked great this year, even with the visit of storms Michael and Florence in the weeks prior. Thanks go to the Reid Chapter for maintaining the garden, and also to those folks who volunteered to staff the garden and discuss native plants with visitors. The Strawberry Bush (*Euonymus americanus*) and American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*) were again stars because of their great fall interest and also because they really looked spectacular this year.

You can read about our Fall Outing in this newsletter. There have also been numerous chapter trips and educational events during the heat of the summer, continuing into fall. These trips bring native plants home to residents all over the state. If you haven't been able to participate in these events, I think you are missing a great opportunity. I learned a bunch on that fall trip!

Planning for our Spring Outing has already started, but we are in serious need of help to make that a success. We need Program Committee members and a chairperson (or two) to accomplish the work necessary for a successful spring event. If you like planning vacations, this may be the perfect job for you, and you won't even have to make hotel reservations! Please contact me at johnclarke@ncwildflower.org if you would like to learn more about these opportunities, or if you are ready to be part of the team that makes fun things happen in the Society!

As a wildflower note, I don't know about you, but I think it's kind of interesting seeing Atamasco Lily in flower alongside late-blooming asters! Thank you Florence and Michael!

Best Regards,
John Clarke

Certified Native Plant Habitats

On Nov. 10, the Society held its quarterly Board of Directors Meeting at Covenant Day School in Matthews, near Charlotte, with a two-fold purpose: 1. Discuss Society business, of course, and 2. Tour the school's Certified Native Plant Garden. Emma Tregidga, Garden Committee chair, was there to welcome the group.

Dr. Larry Mellichamp, a Society at-large director and chair of the Certified Native Plant Habitat Committee, was a valued mentor in garden planning. He explained some of the challenges the school had faced and how they solved them. The board members enjoyed seeing the Schweinitz Sunflowers in bloom, a pollinator house that attracts native insects to the garden, and the newly acquired plant markers that include QR codes with audible information.

The garden is open to the public on weekends and is an important component of the school curriculum. It is located at 800 Fullwood LN, Matthews, NC 28105. **-Lisy McLeod**



The garden of Dr. **Jean P. Parr** in Shelby is one of nine properties certified by the Society since June as a Native Plant Habitat. Here is her report:

“Our property was part of a large farm that did terrace farming. In addition to being left with poor soil, the property begins with a steep slope and ends near the lake as a gentle slope. The reduction of lawn plantings and rock beds have alleviated water rushing. Other areas that helped to reduce lawn, eliminate invasive plants, control water flow and make the property more self-sustainable are my pollinator garden, vegetable garden, shade garden and the pine forest edge, which runs the length of the property. Although not totally planted with natives, there are a number of native species incorporated into each area. I have a small moss/lichen garden that I started after taking “Mossin’ Annie” Martin’s course.”

Fall Outing (cont.)

Foxglove (*Agalinis tenuifolia*), with its barely noticeable delicate stems weaving in and around the grasses. *A. tenuifolia* is actually hemiparasitic on a variety of hosts, especially grasses. In a recently burned field was a rather sticky native plant, Blue Waxweed (*Cuphea viscosissima*), which is found in calcareous soils and thus unusual to see in our region.

Fall is the perfect time to enjoy the beautiful flowering culms of our native grasses, whose seeds are maturing at this time. Not only was I able to enjoy the golden-awned seeds of my favorite native grass Indian-grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), I was able to compare and contrast it to Slender Indian-grass (*Sorghastrum elliptii*), whose seeds are much darker brown in color. Now I have two favorite grasses! Another spectacular and very tall grass growing near the woodlands edge in a rather wet area was Giant Plumegrass (*Erianthus giganteus*, formerly *Saccharum giganteum*), which was just beautiful against the dark green backdrop of some Loblolly Pine (*Pinus taeda*).

If all of this wasn't exciting enough, our leaders led us to Eastern Anglepod (*Gonolobus suberosus*), a climbing relative of the milkweeds, reaching high up into the tree canopy with its dangling, large angular-shaped pod. A fun trip for sure, as it is always so nice to see native plants that you haven't ever seen before as well as to have an opportunity to spend time with our fellow NCNPS members!

Photos by B. Darveaux



Waiting for the rest of the group to arrive.



Beautiful seedheads of Slender Indiangrass.



Giant Plumegrass

(Continued next page)

Fall Outing (cont.)

By **John Clarke** and **Steven Kroeger**

Our fall outing on Oct. 6 was a great day of botanizing and socializing. In the morning, participants learned about B.W. Wells, a distinguished North Carolina ecologist most noted for his pioneering work in plant ecology during the early half of the 1900s. Participants toured Dr. Wells' Rockcliff Farm and heard stories about Dr. Wells from those who knew him.

Among Dr. Wells' accomplishments is his book *The Natural Gardens of North Carolina*, first published in 1932. Thanks go to Sanford Bailey, Julie Moore, Ken Moore and Hughen Nourse for sharing their stories about Dr. Wells, and leading tours of Rockcliff Farm.

The second half of the day was at Penny's Bend Preserve, part of a nearly 400-acre mosaic of sites near Durham renowned for its preservation of rare plants. Lesley Starke (NC Plant Conservation Program), Rob Evans (formerly of the NC PCP) and Julie Moore described how unique geologic formations in NC (i.e., diabase sills) support flora not commonly found in NC and the efforts needed (e.g., prescribed burns, weeding) to maintain populations of protected flora.

Here, participants saw the rosette of Smooth Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea laevigata*), Anglepod Climbing Milkweed (*Gonolobus suberosus*), Slenderleaf False Foxglove (*Agalinis tenuifolia*), Wild Oregano (*Origanum dictamnus*), Appalachian Blazing Star (*Liatris squarrulosa*), Blue Waxweed (*Cuphea viscosissima*), as well as Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*) and Southern Shagbark Hickory (*Carya carolinenseptentrionalis*), side by side!



Fruits of the Shagbark and Southern Shagbark Hickory.



Julie Moore holds the B.W. Wells book, The Natural Gardens of North Carolina.



Ken Moore describes the plant communities of Rockcliff Farm.

Photos by John Clarke and Steve Kroeger

CHLOROFIENDS!*

Invasive Plants of the NC Mountains, Pt. 2: Some Herbaceous Plants

By Lisa Lofland Gould

Over 100 years ago, Wilson Creek resident Bill Crump placed an order from the Sears catalog for seeds of Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*, formerly *Polygonum cuspidatum*), to use for erosion control on his property. Since that time it has spread far down Wilson Creek, where locals still call it “Bill Crump Weed”.

In the Buckwheat family (*not* a grass, as another common name, “Japanese Bamboo”, would imply), this east-Asian dioecious perennial may appear to be a shrub, growing to 10’ tall and forming large colonies. Its rhizomes may reach 60’ long. Typical of the Buckwheat family, there are sheathed joints where the leaf meets the stem (*Polygonum* means “many knees”). The alternate, oval leaves tend to be flat across the base and pointed at the tips. In Asia it is used for both food and medicine. The young stems are edible, apparently tasting like Rhubarb, which is in the same family.

This plant thrives in full sun near water but can tolerate heat, drought, shade, and high salinity. The small, winged fruits produced by the female plants are carried by the wind and in runoff water, so it spreads easily, especially



along waterways. The layer of old leaves and stems it produces covers competitor plants, and it can alter habitats for fish and other animals. Once established it is extremely difficult to eradicate, as the huge rhizome can sur-

vive strong floods. It has been known to sprout up through house foundations and asphalt. The NCNPS ranks it an “Extreme Threat”, and in some countries, such as Great Britain, it is heavily regulated. Japanese Knotweed is considered one of the world’s worst invasive plants, and there is ongoing research into biological control. More common farther north and east, Giant Knotweed (*Reynoutria sachalinensis*) is a close Asian relative, and the two species sometimes hybridize.

Mountain-dwelling NCNPS members also report increased sightings of Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) in the region, particularly



A stand of Japanese Knotweed in bloom.

worrisome since this Eurasian Mustard-family plant, while thriving along roadsides and forest edges, is very shade tolerant and can invade undisturbed forests. Introduced by European settlers in the early 1800s, it’s been used as a spring green, both cooked and raw (it’s high in Vitamins A and C). The seeds are used to flavor sauces, and the plant also has medicinal uses. A biennial, the leaves of the first year’s

basal rosettes can resemble the scallop-edged leaves of violets or Ground-ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*), but unlike either of those, all parts of Garlic Mustard have a distinct garlic odor when crushed. (continued next page)

Chlorofiends! (cont.)

In the second year of growth, the flowering stems elongate up to 3' or 4', and the alternate leaves take a more triangular shape, with sharper teeth. The small white flowers have four petals and the seedpods are narrow and up to 2.5" long, with small black seeds. The plants die back after flowering, but the seeds are readily dispersed into soil and runoff water. Colonies of Garlic Mustard outcompete native plants for space and light, and there is evidence that it produces a chemical that inhibits the growth of mycorrhizal fungi that many native plants need to absorb soil nutrients (although recent data suggest this effect may diminish as the colony ages).



Garlic Mustard in bloom.

To make matters worse, the plants also produce allelopathic chemicals that inhibit other species' seed germination. Many native butterflies lay eggs on members of the Mustard family, but when Garlic Mustard is abundant, the butterflies lay their eggs on it and the larvae do not survive. The rare West Virginia White (*Pieris virginianensis*) is one butterfly species that appears to be particularly affected by Garlic Mustard's spread. The NCNPS gives Garlic Mustard an "Extreme Threat" ranking.

Ground-ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*) is also known as Creeping Charlie or Gill-over-the-ground. The "gill" name is a corruption of the French word "guiller", meaning "to ferment", as this plant was used to make a beverage called gill ale. It is a Eurasian mem-

ber of the Mint family, brought to North America in the 1800s for ornament and medicine. I feel like I see it everywhere I go. [Weakley \(2015\)](#) shows it as common throughout the state, and NCNPS gives it a "Significant Threat" rating. It is so ubiquitous that many people are surprised to learn that it is not native to North America, where it now grows in most of Canada, Alaska, and all other US states except Hawaii, Arizona, New Mexico, and Nevada.

Ground-ivy is a perennial, evergreen plant with opposite, round to heart-shaped leaves with scalloped edges and long petioles. The lavender tubular flowers bloom from late winter into summer, are up to 1/2" long with flaring petals, and grow in groups of

2 or more in the axils of the leaves. Its stems root at the nodes, so it can form dense patches, thriving especially in damp soils of low forests, floodplains, lawns, and disturbed edges.

I have often wondered what native plants might be growing where instead I find Ground-ivy.

Thanks to Jean Woods and Tracie Jeffries for sharing mountain observations. As always, GO NATIVE!

Chlorofiends! is a regular column in *Native Plant News*. If you have information or comments on invasive species in North Carolina, please share them

with Lisa Gould (lisal Gould@gmail.com).

*Thanks to Jim Butcher's *The Dresden Files* for the column title. All photos by the author.



Ground-ivy in bloom.

Research Reports from the Field

NCNPS awarded six grants in 2018 from the Tom and Bruce Shinn Fund to students at universities in North Carolina who are conducting research on native plants and their habitats. Here is the research report from Katherine Culatta, a graduate student at North Carolina State University, whose advisor is Dr. Alexander Krings. We will feature research reports from other Shinn Grant recipients in future newsletters.

By **Katherine Culatta**

It was a very productive field season for my project, "Taxonomy, Population Genetics and Status Assessment of *Nuphar sagittifolia* (Cape Fear Spatterdock)", funded by a 2018 Shinn Grant.

With assistance from NCSU undergraduate Emma Deutch, I visited approximately 1,200 bridge crossings and boat landings across 32 North Carolina counties and six South Carolina counties to survey for and document *N. sagittifolia* populations. *Nuphar sagittifolia* was found present at 39 previously reported

locations and 16 new locations. No *N. sagittifolia* was found at 10 previously reported locations. Additionally, 14 river sections were surveyed, covering approximately 168 river miles.



I collected morphological data and leaf tissue from 11 *N. sagittifolia* populations, as well as four populations of the more widespread *N. advena*, and five populations of unclear taxonomic identity, including type populations for *N. sagittifolia* and *N. advena*.

With field season over, I am now working in the lab to extract DNA from collected leaf tissue and genotype 600 individuals. Genetic and morphological data will be used to clarify the taxonomic identity of intermediate populations, and will additionally inform conservation decisions for this Southeastern coastal plain endemic plant.

Laura Hamon is a PhD student in Biology and Entomology at North Carolina State University advised by Dr. Rebecca Irwin.

By **Laura Hamon**

Pollination ecology is a crucial part of plant reproductive success, but management for rare plants is often done with incomplete knowledge of that plant's pollinators. Among the plants whose pollination ecology is still unclear is Venus Flytrap (*Dionaea muscipula*). This summer, I began a study on the "Pollination Ecology of Venus Flytrap" to find out which insect species are most important to Venus Flytrap's reproduction, as well as to answer basic questions about its floral biology. To do this I observed which insects deposit the most pollen on Venus Flytrap stigmas. Bees – primarily honeybees, bumblebees, and sweat bees – were the most fre-



quent visitors seen in this study, and deposited more pollen compared to flies. I will continue this study to find out how beetles and other flytrap pollinators compare in their pollination efficiency. In addition, I confirmed that Venus Flytrap will produce seeds when self-pollinated, but

found evidence that it does not readily set seed without help from a pollinator. Though analysis is ongoing, I also sampled flower odor to find out whether the flowers have a unique attractive scent compared to the traps. Once analysis is finished, this could provide insight into whether Venus Flytrap employs scent to help spare its pollinators from becoming food.

Chapter News



Lynda Waldrep at the Greensboro Bog Garden.

The Triad Chapter has resumed our monthly meetings after a summer break.

Member **Lynda Waldrep** received her Certificate of Plant Studies in August from the NC Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill. Her final project dealt with removing invasive plant species, re-searching and growing appropriate species for the Greensboro Bog

Garden. Our volunteers continue to work weekly at the Bog Garden. Members **Ann Walter-Fromson** and **Diane Laslie** also received the Ecology Award for their leadership

and expertise in the removal of invasives at that garden, replanting with native plants. As of August, our chapter volunteers have planted nearly 1,500 native plants in the Bog Garden, representing at least 59 different species.

On Tuesday, Oct. 23, member **Dennis Burnette** presented a PowerPoint on "Benefits of Native Plants in the Garden" at Reynolda Gardens in Winston-Salem. His talk focused on the benefits that birds, butterflies, native bees and other wildlife receive from native plants in our gardens and landscaping, and about how having native plants nearby is a benefit to our health and the climate, as well as our vegetable, fruit and flower gardens.

Judy West, Chapter Chair

The **South Piedmont Chapter** held a Fall Fruits & Nuts Hike, led by Dr. Larry Mellichamp, on Oct. 14 at Frank Liske Park in Concord.

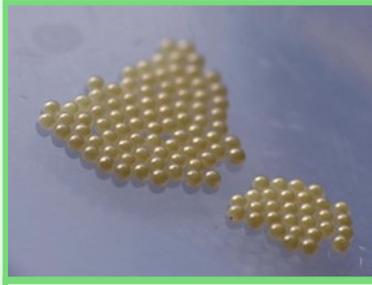
-Photos by **Beth Davis**



Raising Woolly Bears: An Unexpected Adventure!

By **Annkatriin Rose**, Blue Ridge Chapter

Imagine coming home from work and finding that some misguided or desperate insect mom trapped in the house has laid a clutch of eggs on a plastic dish sitting out in the drying rack in your kitchen. What do you do? Well, raise them to see what they are, of course!



"Mystery eggs" on a clean plastic dish.

Tiny caterpillars hatched four days after I noticed the eggs, and since I wasn't sure what they were I tried offering a selection of food. They quickly settled on fresh grass and dandelion leaves as their favorite and molted about every three days, growing darker and fuzzier in the process. Soon it became clear that I was now caretaker of over 100 little Banded Woolly Bears, AKA the larvae of the Isabella Tiger Moth (*Pyrrharctia isabella*). After their 7th molt into 4.5 cm-long final instars, I released most of them in the



Hatching day.



This is the third instar, having just emerged from its second molt.

backyard to let them wander off and kept just a few to observe metamorphosis.

Because these were part of the summer generation, they soon spun their cocoons from which

they emerged as moths about two weeks later.

The fall generation of this caterpillar will roam far and wide and overwinters in the leaf litter in our yards to pupate in spring. They can survive harsh winter weather frozen solid and revive once

they thaw out again, so you might even see one wandering around on a warm mid-winter day. You often see them crossing roads in October, and people collect them to race them at the Woolly Worm Festival in Banner Elk here in the mountains. The caterpillars are placed at the bottom of a string to crawl up and the first one to make it to the top wins the race and determines the snow forecast for the winter.

Tradition holds that if the brown band is wide, winter weather will be mild, but if the brown band is narrow, the winter will be severe. My caterpillars were changing with every molt and quite varied with everything in the batch from completely brown to completely black, so what you get when you find one seems to depend on random chance and how old they are.



There is a lot of color variation among these siblings. So much for trying to predict the winter!



This one is ready to leave its container and explore the backyard. -Photos by A. Rose

What Do I Do With 6 Men?

By Bettina Darveaux

Most women would think that this is a pretty awesome dilemma but the botanical side of me says absolutely not!

I am a nurturer by nature, so I love to grow and propagate woody natives from either very small saplings or better yet from seeds since I get so much enjoyment from watching them develop over time. I also believe that the plants really do get established much better this way, with a more natural, healthier root system that was not compromised by a lengthy stay in a container. That said, I do like to collect various seeds from natives while hiking. Of course I only collect a few propagules and leave the majority for wildlife and natural plant regeneration. My propagation method works out great except when the species happens to be dioecious, which is having male and female flowers on separate individual plants.

I have grown two Sassafras trees (*Sassafras albidum*) this way, having been lucky that one tree turned out to be male and the other female. The female tree is now mature enough to be producing fruit, so I currently have a steady supply of little Sassafras seedlings popping up throughout my property from their distribution by birds.

I also was somewhat lucky with my propagation of Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), which is also in the same botanical family as Sassafras, the Lauraceae family. Ending up with only three Spicebush plants, and one of which was struggling, I have yet to have any berries form. Two of the shrubs that are growing well and flowering are males. I had moved the one plant that wasn't thriving to a new location on my property a few years ago, and although much smaller than the other two, it has improved to the point that it flowered this past spring. Close inspection of the small yellow flowers revealed that it is indeed a female.

Beautiful red Spicebush berries are now in my future!

I had collected some fruits of Possumhaw (*Ilex decidua*) in the fall a few years ago,

on a trail around a Piedmont lake. The shrub itself is pretty nondescript for the most part, unless you have a female plant, which will produce a spectacular display of bright red fruit that remains on the branches after the leaves of this deciduous holly drop in the fall. I planted the seeds in a large plastic pot filled with good potting soil and left the pot sitting year-round in a part-shaded part of the garden. I more or less forgot about it until I noticed numerous seedlings emerging one spring, a year and a half after I had sown them. I believe I let them grow in that pot for a season and then repotted them individually. There were so many of them that I donated several to the plant auction at our yearly NCNPS picnic one spring.

Being less risk-taking as I get older, I kept six to ensure that at least one would be a prized female. One would think based on probability that I should have gotten three females from the six plants. Despite my prudence, apparently my luck had run out and I ended up with six males. What do I do now with six men?

If any of you were the recipients of those Possumhaw plants from the NCNPS picnic and yours are female, I am truly happy for you but please don't let me know!



Male flowers of the Possumhaw.

NC Native Plant Society Awards Program



This program is intended to recognize individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the Society and to the cause of native plant and habitat conservation in North Carolina, to provide a means of publicly acknowledging such efforts, and to further the mission of the Society of public education.

Award selections are open until January 1, 2019 and the official announcement and award presentation will be made at the annual meeting at the Society's June picnic.

Submissions should be sent to NCNPS Awards Committee, 104 Birklands Dr, Cary, NC 27518 or tom@ncwildflower.org.

Award Categories: Part I: Recipients of these awards must be NCNPS members.

President's Award for Service to the Society

To recognize the superior efforts of an individual to further the mission and purpose of the Society.

William Lanier Hunt Award for Environmental Education

To recognize an individual for superior efforts in the area of education related to native plants. Educational efforts may be in the areas of public education (teaching), programs presented to the general public, writing, or research.

B. W. Wells Award for Excellence in Botany or Horticulture

To recognize an individual for work in the field of botany or horticulture, whether that work be at the professional or amateur level.

C. Ritchie Bell Award for Natural Resource Conservation Advocacy

To recognize the efforts of an individual to raise public awareness of environmental issues, to advocate for the environment, and to encourage The Society to keep environmental issues as a major component of its activities.

Award Categories: Part II: These awards may be nominated by any member of the Society, accompanied by photographs and any other documentation felt appropriate. The nominees do not need to be NCNPS members.

NCNPS H. L. Blomquist Award for Promoting Native Plants

To recognize a business or institution in North Carolina that promotes the use of native plants, promotes alternatives to non-native invasive plants, or contributes in some way to the mission of the N.C. Native Plant Society.

NCNPS Emily H. Allen Award for Landscape Design with Native Plant Materials

To recognize a public or private garden within North Carolina that makes exemplary use of native plant material and encourages such use in home or business landscapes (includes residential, business, or organization).

NCNPS H. Roland Totten Award for Advancing Knowledge or Conservation of Native Plants

To recognize the efforts of an individual or organization in advancing the knowledge of native plants and in advocating for the conservation of plants and their habitats.

Scholarship Report

Part of the requirement for students to receive a scholarship from our Society to attend the summer Native Plant Conference in Cullowhee is to submit a report to the Society. Here is one such report.

By **John Ring**

Now in my final year of graduate school with a master's in Landscape Architecture at North Carolina State University, I am attempting to expand my knowledge pertaining to plants, as well as the neighboring disciplines that landscape architects rely upon: horticulture, landscape management services, nurseries, etc.

Thanks to the Native Plant Society, I and several other up-and-coming, young professionals were able to experience the conference with scholarships covering our experience.

I work at the Natural Learning Initiative at North Carolina State University. This research-based design consulting unit focuses on developing healthy outdoor learning environments for children, promoting engagement with natural settings, and integrating environmental education. The conference solidified the work we do and makes me want to integrate native plants into the designs as much

as possible. Along with supporting local ecosystems, introducing kids to the diversity of native plants in this region helps teach them both consciously and subconsciously as to what makes the places they live unique.

While the Native Plant Conference was only four days long, I can say without a doubt that I not only learned more about the native plants and ecology of southeastern region of the United States, but I also was recharged with a passion that drew me to landscape architecture in the first place. My overall experience was an equal balance of outdoor exposure and fun. The trips to Panthertown and Paradise Falls, and the lectures, were all informative and fun. Along with the day trips and speakers, the overall atmosphere of the conference was incredibly positive, inclusive, and created a space where everyone with varying degrees of plant knowledge felt comfortable.

I can only hope that I will be able to attend or help in any way with the continuation of the Native Plant Conference in the years to come.

Other Society scholarship winners were Mandi Miller, Cassandra Bridges, Jordan Freeman, and Anthony Boyd.



This group of student attendees at the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference this summer included five recipients of the NCNPS Scholarship.

-Bettina Darveaux

Membership Spotlight: Debbie Shetterly



Debbie joined NCNPS in 2011 and is active in the Blue Ridge Chapter.

What is your background?

I am originally from Colorado, where I developed my love for the outdoors. I have had a number of careers — IBM chemist, tour director for a professional golf tour, and land protection associate for the Nature Conservancy. My most recent profession is as a conservation consultant.

How did you get interested in native plants?

I've always loved plants. My high school Career Day was spent at a nursery. I just could not figure out how to make a career of it. I changed my major multiple times from forest-er to landscape architect, to horticulture, but at the time I needed a major with which I could immediately find work so I veered away from my love!

How do you support native plants in your chapter?

We do plant rescues whenever possible, plus our chapter is active in the Daniel Boone Native Garden annual Native Plant Sale. As president of High Country Audubon Society, I help direct efforts there toward planting native plants for birds.

Do you have a favorite native plant?

Wow! Not sure — I love so many of them. This time of year, I love the Witch Hazel, but in the spring, I love the native azaleas and all the ephemerals. In late summer, I love the asters, Iron Weed, and native orchids. I don't think I can choose!

Bird-friendly List!

Audubon North Carolina recently announced the release of their expanded [700 Bird and Pollinator-friendly Native Plant List](#) (once on the page, scroll down to “Downloadable Resources” to download the list). The original list had ~400 plants; the new version has 692 (almost 700, and all native to North Carolina), and has expanded on the cultivation information to include columns on habitat and wetland status, as well as adding to the notes section and the information about the animals that utilize the plants. The list was created by NCNPS members **Lisa Lofland Gould** and **Susan Andrews**, with help from **Cary Paynter**, **Lara Berkley**, and **Will Stuart**.

Native Places: Droughton Park



Spring to fall, the Blue Ridge Parkway is a native plant showcase, a Southeast treasure I always enjoy. There are surprises to be found at each bend of the road, from masses of trillium in April, to roadside azaleas in May and June, to brilliantly colored vistas in October. Along the Parkway there are scores of opportunities to park and venture into a forest or meadow. Some destinations, like Graveyard Fields, are teeming with visitors. Others offer quiet and peaceful walkways.

Droughton Park at Milepost 240 (easily accessed via Wilkesboro or Roaring Gap) is a personal favorite, a must-see summer wildflower show. Starting in mid-July, a rolling meadow at the picnic area comes alive with brilliant orange Butterfly-weed, masses of golden Coreopsis, and thousands of stems of *Liatris spicata*. From mid-morning until late afternoon, butterflies fill the meadows, dashing from stem to stem.

This 7,000-acre park offers 30+ miles of hiking trails, a large picnic area, and both RV and tent camping. The mowed and mostly level Bluff Mountain Trail parallels the Parkway through most of the park. The trail at the south end of the picnic area to the shelter on Bluff Mountain is an easy and popular hike.

—Article and photos by **Will Stuart**



North Carolina Native Plant Society

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**We're
Wild
About
Natives!**



Photo by Will Stuart